

R E M A R K S

Claims 1 to 28 will be pending upon entry of this preliminary amendment with Claim 28 having been newly added herein and Claims 5 and 10 having been amended herein.

Claims 1, 5, 10, and 28 are independent.

A. Amendment to the Drawings

Applicants have amended FIG. 5 to show exhaust system 515 described in the original specification at page 16, line 12. The exhaust system 515 block was inadvertently omitted from FIG. 5, however, it was described in the specification as originally filed on page 16, lines 7 to 19. Thus, no new matter is being added by this amendment.

A Proposed Drawing Changes Letter to the Official Draftsperson, along with a replacement sheet for Figure 5, and an annotated sheet of Figure 5 with the proposed changes shown in red, are submitted herewith. Formal figures for Figures 1-4 are also enclosed.

B. Amendment to the Claims

The claims have been amended to clarify that prior to depositing a fill layer, the metal seed layer is exposed to a surfactant (Claim 5) or an organic solvent (Claim 10) at a station that is different than the fill deposition station. This feature of the invention was disclosed in the original specification at page 11, lines 13 to 25. Thus, no new matter is being added by this amendment.

Newly added claim 28 is a method claim similar to Claim 5 wherein it is explicitly recited that exposing the seed layer to a surfactant happens at a different time than when the fill layer is deposited. As stated above, this

feature of the invention was disclosed in the original specification at page 11, lines 13 to 25. Thus, no new matter is being added by the addition of this new claim.

C. Conclusion

Please charge any new claim fees to Deposit Account No. **04-1696**. If any additional fees are required please charge Deposit Account No. **04-1696**. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney to discuss any issues affecting patentability of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian M. Dugan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Tarrytown, New York

In the Drawings

Please amend FIG. 5 as indicated in the red marked copy included herewith.

A separate letter to the Official Draftsperson including a replacement FIG. 5 is being filed concurrently with this Amendment. Formal drawings for FIGS. 1-4 are also submitted herewith.

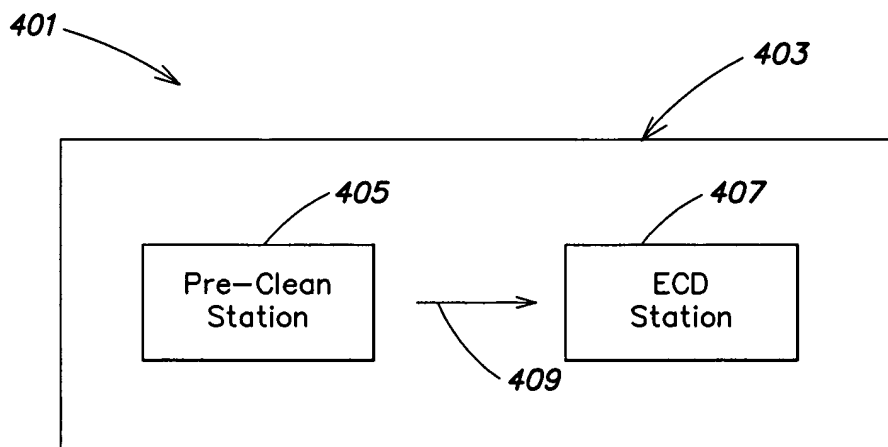
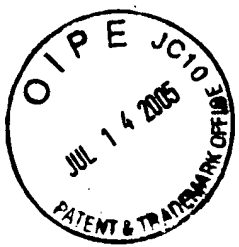


FIG. 4

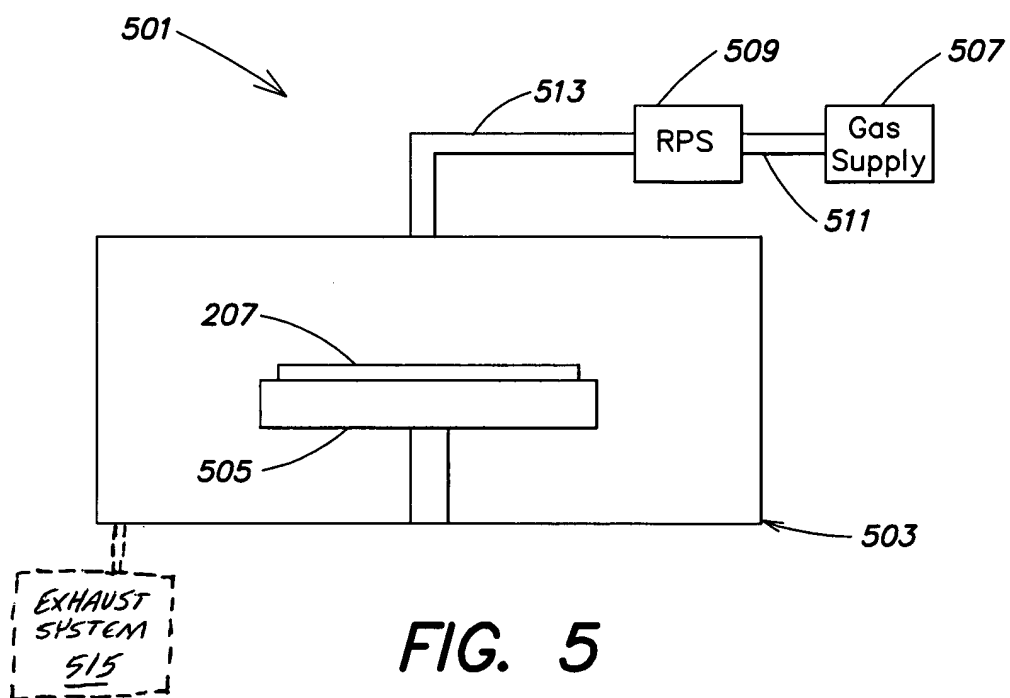


FIG. 5